

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 14-21 were rejected. Claim 8 was objected to and claims 1-7 and 9-13 were allowed. By the present Response, claims 8, and 14-21 are amended. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-21 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected a grammatical error within claim 8. Claim 8 has been amended to correct the noted error. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 8 is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. While the Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of claims 16-21, the Applicants have, nevertheless, amended claims 16-21 to incorporate the language provided by the Examiner. In view of these amendments, the Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration by the Examiner.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 14 and 15 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,115,487 (the reference of "Toth et al.") In view of this rejection, the Applicants have amended claims 14 and 15. In particular, the claims 14 and 15, as amended, are believed to fall under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 6 and are, therefore, believed to be patentable over Toth et al. for the reasons cited by the Examiner with regard to claims 1 and 2. In particular, the Toth et al. reference does not teach the disclosed structures or equivalents for performing the recited functions. Therefore, as amended, claims 14 and 15 are believed to be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

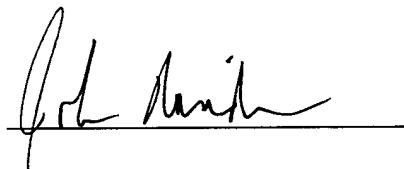
Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

General Authorization for Extensions of Time

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicant hereby provides a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Furthermore, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee for any extension of time to Deposit Account No. 07-0868; Order No. 128628/YOD (GERD:0039).

Respectfully submitted,



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